

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

July 1, 2015 Vol. 45, Issue 13
“Hiyuce”
Little Harvest



OK state rep. joins shooting incident conversation — Page 4

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Remember to hashtag your social media posts from the MCN Festival!
#CreekFest15

A Mvskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscookee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant winners announced

Barnett, Gouge to crowned as new tribal royalty

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscookee (Creek) citizen Shannon Barnett was crowned Miss Muscookee (Creek) Nation and citizen Madeline Gouge was crowned Jr. Miss June 6 during the 2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

The purpose of the pageant is to provide an educational scholarship opportunity to young Muscookee (Creek) women and help develop public speaking skills, self-confidence and cultural knowledge of Muscookee (Creek) history, customs and traditions.

“The pageant committee prides themselves on offering one of the highest scholarships given in a tribal scholarship pageant in the state,” MCN Pageant Committee Secretary Nancy Deere-Turney said. “Along with many gifts from the committee and Nation, traveling opportunities and scholarship, the Miss and Jr. Miss pageant builds character and leadership skills.”



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Muscookee (Creek) citizen Shannon Barnett was crowned Miss Muscookee (Creek) Nation (center, right) and citizen Madeline Gouge was crowned Jr. Miss (center, left) June 6 during the 2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla. Also pictured is 2014 Miss MCN, Brittany Hill (right) and 2014 Jr. Miss, River Watson (left).

Eight contestants’ ages 17-24 competed for the title of Miss MCN, while five contestants ages 14-17 competed for Jr. Miss.

Each contestant had to write an essay, give a personal interview with the judges, prepare a self-introduction, wear traditional dress, give a traditional presentation and answer an impromptu question.

Barnett played her favorite Muscookee (Creek) hymn on a self-made flute for her traditional talent.

Gouge painted a portrait while a song written by her father played.

After a long day of competition the winners were finally announced.

“I feel very honored to have the opportunity to serve the Muscookee (Creek) Nation and our people,” Barnett said.

MCN royalty serve as representatives of the Nation and positive role models for Muscookee (Creek) citizens.

“Being Jr. Miss, I want to show who we are and how we do the best in all we do,” Gouge said.

To schedule an appearance contact the MCN Pageant Committee Head Chaperone LuAnn Bear at: 918-758-8106.

MCN calls for opposition to Poarch gaming compact



Shutterstock & Amanda Rutland/MNN

Tiger urges Alabama governor to deny agreement with PBCI

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscookee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger sent a letter dated June 2, to Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley opposing a proposed gaming compact between with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the state.

PBCI claims to be descendants of the Muscookee (Creek) Confederacy that were not

forcibly relocated by the U.S. government to modern day Oklahoma under the Indian Removal Act signed in 1830.

According to the ‘Montgomery Advisor,’ within the last few months, PBCI has agreed to give \$250 million to the State of Alabama to close the state’s 2016 budget deficit in exchange for exclusive gaming rights.

PBCI acquired Hickory Ground with the approval

Compact - 5

“We counted a while ago and all of them joined in. It’s just an exchange of words to each other and they can understand.”

— Camp instructor Vicky Tate

Gary Fife/MNN

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program Immersion Camp students weave baskets June 4 under the watchful eye of instructor Vicky Tate.



Immersion camp teaches traditions to youth

Week-long opportunity offered by MCN program

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

HULBERT, Okla. — Many Oklahoma school children will spend a portion of their summer in some kind of camp.

For a dozen seventh through 12th-grade Muscookee (Creek) students, this time was spent learning about their culture through the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program Immer-

sion Camp June 1-5 at Sequoyah State Park Lodge. The camp featured cultural instruction on: language, music, arts, games, beadwork and traditional values.

MLPP Manager Chumona Deere hoped to kindle the student’s interest to help them retain these skills.

“As most people know, our language is dying out and I always say, even if we only have a handful that’s willing to learn, then, we’ll teach them and hope they’ll carry it on,” Deere said.

Deere said the small size of the group worked to the advantage of the language staff, enabling them to reach more students individually.

The language is integrated into each lesson by using correct Mvskoke terms for items or actions, rather than teaching through lectures and tests.

Since most students have little to no knowledge of the language, the idea is to give them a sample and keep their attention.

Camp - 3

One Fire Sports Bar opens to public

Casino adds new entertainment amenity to Okmulgee

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — One Fire Casino celebrated the opening of the One Fire Sports Bar June 19, located within the casino in Okmulgee.

“There’s really not the amenity in Okmulgee besides one small restaurant downtown and so we wanted add another level for our players and so they can have a nice, fun, safe, responsible atmosphere to come in and enjoy themselves and also enjoy the games too,” One Fire Casino General Manager Travis Thompson said.

Thompson said he hopes the sports bar will become another draw for casino patrons.

“With us being right here on 75, obviously we have a major responsibility to make sure everybody is safe. We feel like that it is going to draw traffic in for people to explore and then just maybe relax for a little bit,” Thompson said.

MCN Casinos Chief Opera-

tions Officer Andy Langston said that he hopes that casino patrons enjoy the sports bar as well as the casino and in turn increase revenue for the tribe.

“It took us three years to get here and I think it’s going to be a very good success,” Langston said. “It’s just kind of a success story to see something from beginning to end.”

I-5 based out of Seattle completed the sports bar project, and also worked on other Muscogee (Creek) Nation casino remodels in Okmulgee, Muskogee and Duck Creek.

“Just the interior of this building, it’s worth coming to see. So, if you haven’t been in, it’s a great place to come and see. There’s a lot of stone. There’s a lot of tribal symbolism around the facility and we like to share in our heritage as much as we possibly can,” Thompson said.

The sports bar was funded from gaming revenue.

For more information about One Fire Casino and One Fire Sports Bar, visit: www.onefire-casino.com, or call: 918-756-8400.

Football camp helps teach fundamentals, discipline



Shane Holuby/Intern
Spirit of Oklahoma participants huddle together after drills June 5 at the Wetumka High School football field in Wetumka, Okla.

Spirit of Oklahoma returns to MCN

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp returned to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation June 5-6, at Wetumka High School football field in Wetumka.

This is the fifth year that former University of Oklahoma quarterback Jamelle Holieway brought his camp along with former pro and college players back to the MCN jurisdiction for the two-day event

“It is always great to come back to Creek Nation and Wetumka,” Holieway said. “Everyone here treats us great. We always like it here.”

Holieway wanted to use this event as a way to teach the chil-

dren the proper fundamentals of football.

“We want to show them the right way of having the proper footwork and discipline for when they play this great game,” Holieway said. “These coaches are here to show them the proper technique and right way of doing it.”

The football camp was set for the youth ages 12 and under for the session on Friday and 13 and up for the camp on Saturday. The camp was free of charge to all participants.

Holieway said it does not matter whether the youth are from rural areas.

He knows they can push themselves to be successful regardless of where they are from.

“Being from a rural area does not matter at all,” Holieway said. “These kids can play. If they

MCN candidate profiles to be taken at filing

Prospective, incumbent officials asked to be photo, bio ready

Mvskoke Media/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The ‘Muscogee Nation News’ will take candidate profile information and photos **on-site** during the filing period July 20-

22 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. for the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation officer elections.

M N N staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their **100 total word limit** bios, which will run in the MNN Aug. 15 edition.

Bios should include, as available, candidates’ full name, district and seat they are run-

ning for, clan, tribal town, ceremonial ground and/or church, education/experience and campaign platform.

No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates’ campaign material.

Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.

The profile submission period has been narrowed to quickly inform Muscogee (Creek) citizens ahead of the upcoming Mvskoke Media candidate forum, to be announced and absentee ballot deadlines.

For more information contact MNN Editor Sterling Cospers at: 918-732-7697 or email: scosper@mcn-nsn.gov.

Program opens store to help those in need



Shane Holuby/Intern

RiP lends a helping hand

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program does its part to help ex-offenders adjust to civilian life and has found yet another way to help those in need.

MCN RiP Manager Tony Fish said there have been requests from citizens for furniture, household items and clothing.

“It was not only citizens asking about that,” Fish said. “Other people were asking that too and if you are not a client of ours, then we cannot help.”

Fish and other RiP employees came up with a way to have those items donated, refurbished and given to those in need.

MCN first lady Frances Tiger asked Fish if his program accepted donations. He said that they did and that started the ball rolling on a store to help provide them to the public.

“This was placed heavy on my heart, like a burden,” Fish said. “I felt we needed to get something done.”

The donated items are housed, stored and distributed in Henryetta.

“We had to buy the clothes rack but everything else in the store is donated,” Fish said.

Fish said Tiger was the first person to donate to the new store.

“She had clothes and other

work hard and listen to what the coaches say while they are here, it will help them improve.”

Holieway enjoys seeing new children at his camp and is also happy about the youth who return.

“We have a kid who has been coming to camp for a couple of years,” Holieway said. “Last year, his family moved to Arkansas but they still made the effort to come back to our camp. If they made the effort to come back we as the coaches need to keep pushing them to being their best.”

Former OU football player Keith Sparks also returned to help out.

Every year he sees potential in the children.

“These kids get excited knowing the same drills they are doing now are the ones we used growing up and while we were in college,” Sparks said. “Seeing the excitement in them when they are out here makes everything worth it.”

Sparks feels that he sees the youth getting better and hopes they will keep passing this knowledge on to the next generation.

“This is what it is for,” Sparks said. “We want to teach and instill in these kids the focus, drive, intensity and determination. Then when it is time for them to teach, they can pass on this knowledge that they learned from us.”

items to give to us,” Fish said. “We got those ready and on the shelves immediately.”

Fish understands that things like natural disasters and job loss can happen to anyone.

“We want to help if such an event occurs that it out of their hands,” Fish said.

The store is open to anyone in need by appointment only and those seeking help may remain anonymous.

“This is for anyone that needs a helping hand,” Fish said. “This store is here to help you get you back on your feet.”

RIP Youth Specialist Keith Green said that the program accepts donations of clothing, household items and furniture.

“Those are some of the things that we need,” Green said. “What we need is a lot of are hangers for the clothes.”

For more information about RiP and the store, including how to receive assistance or donate call: 918-652-2676.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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CAMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“What we’re doing is giving them a variety of learning,” Deere said. “Whether it’s speaking or even through the crafts, we teach them the names of the objects and those kinds of things, because youth get bored pretty easy if you just go strictly language.”

Camp instructor Vicky Tate taught arts and crafts.

“They know how to say ‘basket,’ they know how to say ‘pottery’ in Creek and they use it often,” Tate said. “We counted a while ago and all of them joined in. It’s just an exchange of words to each other and they can understand.”

For Morris student Sarah Elizabeth Hawkins, the camp offered an opportunity for her to learn about traditional Mvskoke ways with support from her mother.

“Well, I didn’t really get to learn my language growing up,” Hawkins said. “My momma heard about it in the newspaper and she decided that we should come and at least learn a little bit of the language and a bit of our culture as well.”

That preservation of Mvskoke culture is important to her.

“Our culture is disappearing and we’re the next generation that they need to pass it down to,” Hawkins said. “Otherwise, we’re going to lose our language and culture, like some of the other Indians have lost their language and we won’t be recognized as Indians.”

Jay Fife, from Beggs, was attending the camp to build on his family’s Mvskoke teach-

ings. “Just to know my language. I mean, I already know some but it’s good to talk with the mvhayvs (teachers). They know it and then, we learn off of each other,” Fife said.

Echoing his fellow students, he said these kind of projects put preservation into practice.

“We’re keeping it alive, we keeping this tradition alive,” Fife said. “That’s why it’s so important because if we don’t learn it, who’s going to learn it for us? It starts with us, so that’s why we need to learn it.”

MLPP Language Specialist Minnie Proctor felt the learning opportunity was a “privilege.”

“We say we’re trying to preserve our language and the only way I know we can do that, is those that volunteer and want to come out and learn,” Proctor said. “Because we’re not pressuring anybody, but it’s something I feel like you’re privileged right now to have a place to go, to get together, to make new friends share our culture and our traditions.”

Chitto Mekko Harjo Frye of Henryetta said the camp helped him to do his part to continue Mvskoke language, traditions and more.

“Like manners, love, respect and just talking to elders,” Harjo said.

He came to the camp with a limited knowledge of the language, but said the time spent there made a difference.

“Not really, but since these last four days, I got better at it,” Harjo said.

Apprenticeship Program grows through projects, participants



Maranda Coon/Intern
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Department Apprenticeship Program under the direction of Tribal Construction Services nears completion on a home June 8 in Okmulgee, Okla.

Citizens receive on the job training

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In the last six months, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Department Apprenticeship Program has grown both in the number of participants and projects.

The Apprenticeship Program offers training in construction, plumbing and HVAC specialties.

ET Career Specialist Kimberly Martel said the four-year apprenticeship program now has 15 participants and ET is working to expand opportunities by partnering with other tribal departments.

ET has partnered with other MCN departments consisting of Tribal Construction Services, Housing, Tribal Driveways, Federal Roads, Force Account and Family Violence Prevention.

Martel said by incorporating other departments, ET wanted

to increase the variety of life skills available for program participants.

“Family Violence [Prevention] is coming and doing some trainings over ‘My Body, My Life’ and ‘Real Men’ curriculum with our apprenticeship clients and the reason we have them involved is so we can

raise awareness to about effects of domestic violence,” Martel said. “The main mission is to help prohibit them from becoming a victim or even also being one of the people that are perpetrating on others.”

Tribal Construction Services Construction Engineer James Allred said TCS has grown since they started taking apprentices. “In the last year, since we have

incorporated the apprentices, we have also hired another CAD (computer aided drafting) tech operator, CAD tech/project manager,” Allred said. “We have also added a construction supervisor, who helps the supervisors the apprentices and ... we have a licensed surveyor that started to work in our department.”

With the increase in staff, TCS has a number of projects lined up. Some of these include: a roundhouse gazebo at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex to be finished before the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival, completion of houses for the Housing Department and a retaining wall for the College of the Muscogee Nation.

The Apprenticeship Program is seeking approval from the MCN National Council to set up a revolving fund in order to pay the apprentices with money from projects and invest in future projects.

Rep. Dode Barnett is sponsoring legislation titled NCA 15-131 for the revolving account, but the Council has not yet voted on it.

Allred said taking on paid projects increases the self-sufficiency of the program and thus they would not have to rely on the Council for funding.

Allred hopes with the growth rate of the program and by eliminating the need for continuous funding from Council, eventually TCS will be a full-fledged in house construction company.

For more information about the Apprenticeship Program, contact ET Intake Specialist Donnita Severs at: 918-732-7777.



THE UNIVERSITY of
TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

- To participate, you must NOT*
- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
 - Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
 - Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications
- *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow



For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our website at: <http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys>
or on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916>

Oklahoma state representative joins shooting incident conversation



Courtesy photos

Oklahoma State Rep. Mike Shelton (left) issued a statement June 2 requesting that the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt investigate the shooting incident involving Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III and security guard Ricky Stone.

Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler (right) replied to this statement.

Shelton requests OSBI involvement, Tulsa County DA responds

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Oklahoma State Rep. Mike Shelton issued a statement June 2 requesting that Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation investigate the shooting incident involving Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III and security guard Ricky Stone.

The incident took place Feb. 4 at the Deerfield Estates Apartment Complex in Tulsa.

Stone approached the vehicle Bird was in along with a 15-year-old female, and asked for identification. According to reports, Trey backed his vehicle into Stone, causing him to roll onto the trunk and into the back window.

Stone fired three shots at Bird as he drove away, hitting him once and paralyzing him from the neck down.

Bird's sister lives at the apartment complex.

Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler declined to charge Stone in the incident citing that the shooting was justified under Oklahoma's self-defense laws.

Stone was charged May 29 with possession of a controlled drug, after marijuana was discovered in his vehicle while police investigated the shooting incident.

Kunzweiler said that the delay was due to waiting on the lab results.

"It has taken more than three months just to charge him with misdemeanor possession," Shelton said. "It seems that not only is the investigation being slow played, but it also appears the assailant has been undercharged, as well. There is a connection here between the employer and the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department that needs to be vetted by an independent investigation."

Shelton, who represents the Oklahoma City area, said that Smith and Sons Inc., the security firm hired by the apartment complex, is owned by Benji Smith, a Tulsa County Reserve Deputy.

Shelton believes that there is a conflict of interest with the current entities' investigation and an outside investigation should be sought.

TCSD has been under scrutiny in recent months that began

in April when 73-year-old Volunteer Reserve Deputy Robert Bates shot and killed suspect Eric Harris during a sting operation instead of using his Taser.

OSBI is currently investigating TCSD for possible misconduct but did not detail specifics of the investigation. The 'Tulsa World' previously reported allegations of special treatment, harassment and intimidation of employees at TCSD.

Shelton said that in a post on Stone's Facebook account, Stone referred to his job as working for a "private police force." The post has since been removed.

"Because of the slow pace of this investigation, Ricky Stone has been able to move to Texas where he has escaped scrutiny," Shelton said. "Monroe Bird is a good, young man without a violent past, and now he has a difficult future ahead of him because some wannabe cop took his job way to seriously."

"Now the question that needs to be answered is, 'was Ricky Stone not charged that night and has this investigation been delayed because of his connections to the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department?' We cannot allow this to go unchecked by an independent investigation."

Kunzweiler said that the police investigation did not involve TCSD.

"This investigation was conducted by the Tulsa Police Department, not the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department... a totally separate law enforcement entity," Kunzweiler said. "To my knowledge there was no interference by anybody through the sheriff's office or any concerns about the sheriff's office having involvement in the case."

Kunzweiler referred back to his interview that appeared on KFAQ 1170 AM.

"With all do respect to Rep. Shelton, I would be more than willing to recommend that he listen to the podcast involving my interview on the Pat Campbell Show with KFAQ," Kunzweiler said. "And I think once he listens to those podcasts perhaps he might be a little more educated on the facts of the case."

Bird family spokesperson Tezlyn Figaro said that the family had no comment at this time.

For detailed information about the shooting incident, read 'Muscogee Nation News' coverage on page one of the June 1 issue at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/MNN/pdf/2015/20150601.pdf.

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Office of Justice Programs visits MCN District Court

Chelsie Rich/MNN

Okmulgee, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Greg Bigler spoke to representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs June 3 in the MCN District Court Room at the Mound building in Okmulgee.

The visitors oversee \$4 million in grants that provide services to judicial systems, victims, safety, state, federal and tribal court systems.

OJP wanted to see firsthand the assistance their programs provide in Indian Country.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On Dec. 12, 2012, MCN filed a suit against PBCI, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Auburn University and others in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama regarding the tribe's development of a casino on the original Hickory Ground site.

“We don’t profit from any-

MNN reached out to PBCI the morning of June 12 and again the afternoon of June 13 for a statement about the letter and has received no comment as of press time.

MCN/Media Release

"We are very excited to begin development of a new Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program that is patient-centered and culturally sensitive to adequately meet the needs of our communities,"

FVPP provides advocacy and support services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking as well as community education and awareness.

PBCI claims to be descendants of the Muscogee (Creek) Confederacy that were not forcibly relocated by the U.S. government to modern day Oklahoma under the Indian Removal Act signed in 1830.

- PBCI acquired Hickory Ground with the approval from the U.S. government in the '80s.
- After the land was secured, PBCI erected a casino on the location.
- MCN assisted PBCI in obtaining federal recognition in 1984.



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Prize Giveaways: August 1st, 2015

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JIMMY ALEXANDER



GLENPOOL, Okla. — James (Jimmy) Alexander, 76, passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at his Glenpool residence surrounded by his loving family members.

Jimmy was born Dec. 21, 1938 in Pawnee to William and Mary (Harjo) Alexander. He graduated from Webster High School. He attended St. Gregory's College. Jimmy served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a devoted minister for years serving many communities and families.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, William and Mary Alexander; brother, Charles Alexander and children, Jimmy Jr. and LeAnn Alexander and La Donna Thompson.

Jimmy is survived by his: wife, Lorena Alexander; children, Tony Alexander and his wife, Tricia of Glenpool, Jimmi Carol (Sissy) Dunn of Sapulpa, Rick Alexander of Glenpool, Marlin Thompson and companion Norma (Shorty) Taryole of Bristow, Faron Thompson of Pawnee, Jake Thompson and his wife Randi of Tulsa; siblings, Robert Alexander of Commerce, E J Alexander of Pawnee, Mary Sue (Alexander) Peak of Oakhurst, 23 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and other family members, friends and acquaintances.

Funeral services were March 6 at Tulsa Hills Baptist Church with pastor Tim Lowe and Paul Fixico officiating. Interment followed at North Indian Cemetery in Pawnee. Arrangements were entrusted to Daniel C. Schaudt of Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service and Cremation Care. Family and friends may view the obituary and send condolences to the family online at www.schaudtfuneralservice.com.

To send flowers or a remembrance gift to the family of Jimmy Alexander please visit our tribute store.

The family of Jim Alexander would like to thank the 17 ministers who honored him at his wake service, to Tim Lowe and Paul Fixico for officiating the services.

Thanks to the deacons who worked the services for an outstanding job. Mvto, Jimmy would have been so proud!

A special thanks to Jerry and Al Wilson for use of their church. Thanks to all who led and sang English and our Creek hymn, sent flowers, food, prayers, the cooks and showed our family support.

Dad will be missed by all for his sense of humor, jokes and smiles. He will be especially missed for his Creek singing. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandpa, uncle, brother and friend. We feel comfort in knowing he is with his Lord and savior and we will see each other again.

—Mvto, Alexander family

Special thanks to Redeena Butler

OBITUARIES

MELINDA ARNEECHER



HENRYETTA, Okla. — Melinda Ann Arneecheer, a longtime resident of Henryetta, passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2015 in Henryetta at the age of 35. Melinda was born Dec. 31, 1979 in Tulsa. She grew up in Henryetta and attended Henryetta Public Schools, graduating from Henryetta High School.

Following high school, Melinda attended college at Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah. Melinda loved her four children deeply and loved spending time with all her family. She will truly be missed by her family and the many people who knew and loved her.

Melinda is preceded in death by her mother, Polly Wright.

She is survived by her: daughters, Kasey Leach of Henryetta and Abigail Lane of Dewar; sons, Derrick Leach of Henryetta and Teddy Nathaniel Lane of Dewar; sister, Shannon Broncho of Okemah; a special cousin, Loretta Sumka of Henryetta; aunt, Melinda Sumka as well as numerous other cousins, other extended family and many good friends.

Viewing for Melinda was held June 18 at Integrity Funeral Service in Henryetta. A funeral service for Melinda was held June 19 at the Hickory Ground #1 Church with Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating. Burial followed the service immediately at the Sumka Family Cemetery, south of Henryetta under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers were: Lucas Sumka, Jeff Sumka, Jerrod Grayson, John Grayson III, Charles Broncho and Harjo Chee.

Honorary pallbearers were: Gary Sumka and Teddy Lane.

SHIRLEY BERRYHILL

WETUMKA, Okla. — Shirley Ann Berryhill was born March 30, 1946 in Wetumka to Charlie and Annie (Marshall) Tiger and passed from this life June 2, 2015 at her home in Wetumka at the age of 69.

Shirley was raised in the Wetumka area and attended Wetumka School. She married Chubby Berryhill Feb. 26, 1965 and they made Wetumka and Hughes County their lifelong home.

She worked for the Big Yank sewing factory in Wewoka before accepting a position as a cook for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Nutrition Center in Wetumka. She loved her job and worked there until about two years ago when failing health forced her retirement.

Shirley loved to cook, watch TV game shows and work word search puzzles. Her family meant everything to her, especially her husband, children and

grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her: parents; sisters, Salina Yarg-ee and Susie Lindsey; brothers, Homer Tiger and John Scott and a grandson, Matthew Berryhill.

Survivors include: her husband, Chubby Riley Berryhill of the home; children, Shelia Williams and husband, David and Eugene Berryhill and wife, Franchette, all of Wetumka as well as Angela Berryhill and Frank Lewis of Okemah; brother, James Tiger and wife, Barbara of Wetumka; sisters, Ruby Richburg and husband, David of Sulphur and Betty Scott of Okemah; 22 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, along with several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Services were at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Woody Fields and Rev. Fred Lindsey officiating.

Pallbearers were: Todd Pringle, David Williams, David M. McGirt, Tommy Wells, Darrick Deer, Scott Pringle, Corbet Witham, Travis Scott and Frankie Lewis.

Honorary Pallbears were: her grandsons, Shawn Remis, Jon Berryhill, Coleman Holata, Jordan Berryhill, Shevon Berryhill, Nick Coody, Kameron Berryhill, Austin Williams and Michael Williams.

Interment will be in the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church Cemetery under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home of Wetumka.

LEE FREEMAN

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lee R. Freeman, a resident of Overland Park, left this world peacefully on Sunday, May 3 at the age of 65 with his family at his side. He was born March 31, 1950 in Okmulgee, Okla., to Robert and Hepsey Berryhill Freeman.

He was the grandson of Harrison and Celia Freeman Berryhill, great-grandson of John Freeman and Hettie Checote, great-great-grandson of Chief Samuel Checote and four times great-grandson of William (Red Eagle) Weatherford. He was a member of the Hvpvtvlke, (Alligator Clan) of Koweta Tribal Town.

Lee graduated from Shawnee Mission West High School of Overland Park in 1968.

In 1970 he joined the U.S. Navy, proudly serving four years aboard the nuclear attack submarine, USS Hawkbill 666 as a Machinists Mate, Petty Officer 3rd Class.

In 1972, he was deployed on the USS Hawkbill to the South China Sea, for this deployment he received the Vietnam Service Medal.

He was also awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal during his service.

After being honorably discharged, he married Beve Brawner in 1975. They have three children Nathaniel Lee, Rachel and Brandon Freeman.

Lee earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Kansas (KU) in Lawrence.

He enjoyed sports and running. His passions included anything KU, coaching his children's sports teams, his dogs, wood-working and auto mechanics.

He retired February 2015 after 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service when he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis.

He is preceded in death by his: parents and brothers, Robin and Robert.

He leaves behind his: wife, Beve of 40 years; three children and grandson, Kurt; brothers, Douglas, Vernon, Randall and Max Freeman; sisters, Freida Stober, Anita Freeman, Odette Freeman, Carla Hoehn, Abby Wasley and Shannon Freeman, as well as a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held May 9 at Porter Funeral Home, in Lenexa.

ELSIE BUTLER

WETUMKA, Okla. — Born Elsie Mae Butler Feb. 7, 1920, in Wetumka to Pusler Butler and Susanna Dacon, Elsie is a full-blood member of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Elsie Mae lived most of her life in Tulsa until the end of 2009 when her family moved her to Tucson, Ariz., to live with her youngest daughter and family.

On May 14, 1938, Elsie Mae Butler married Walter Elmer Martin. Together they had four children.

Proceeding Elsie in death is her: husband, Walter Martin; daughter, Barbara Sue Martin and son Leonard (Rusty) Martin.

She is survived by: daughters, Debbie Addison of Tucson and VaRene Martin of San Diego, Calif.; grandchildren, Dustin VanWinkle, Marisa Ahern, Reanna Cruz and Halley Addison as well as great-grandchildren, Ricky Vargas and Emilio Figuera.

Elsie has been honored by Southern Hills Baptist Church, AARP and Inducted into Mvs-koke Hall of Fame for over 20 years of service as the primary caretaker for Ray Murphy, Jr. Ray Murphy was injured in a wrestling accident at Oklahoma State in 1969, which left him a quadriplegic.

Elsie Mae began her spiritual journey on Friday, June 5, 2015.

Prayer services were set for June 12 at Floral Haven Funeral Home. A celebration of Elsie's life and burial at Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel was set for June 13.

DEANIE ROBISON

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Deanie Robison passed on Dec. 5, 2014 at the age of 79 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Born October 23, 1935, Deanie was the youngest of 10 children born to Joe and Zelma Jane Robison of Weleetka, Eco Clan.

When Deanie was five-years-old, and during the Great Depression, Joe Robison moved his family to California in search of employment. Deanie was raised in the San Joaquin Valley where he met and married his wife, Donna, in 1953.

After some years they relocated, first to Trinity County, and later to Anchorage, Alaska where Deanie went to work for the City of Anchorage.

Deanie loved the outdoors. He loved to hunt and fish and watch football.

He was very handy and spent many hours tinkering and building things in his garage. Deanie enjoyed his early morning coffee out on his back deck and loved to see the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren come to visit.

In later years, he used his cell phone to call his sister Zelma in California around 4 a.m. and his sister Bernice in Anchorage. Much like his older brothers, Deanie was quiet and anyone who knew him could easily say he had a heart of gold.

He lent a hand to anyone who needed help. He was generous and kind hearted and he will be deeply missed. Deanie made several trips back to Weleetka where he visited his brother, the late Buddy Joe Robison.

Raydean Robison was preceded in death by his:L mother and father; daughter, Deanna Robison Mercado; brothers, Willis, Hildred Nathalene (Robbie) Hully, Buddy Joe, Anthony (Tony) Robison and sisters, Cherokee Lucille Long, Arthemus (Artie) Langston and Zelma Quigley.

Deanie is survived by: one sibling, Bernice (Bunny) Kirkland; his wife of 61 years, Donna; sons, Rick and Daryl and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

DOUGLAS STARR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Douglas Henry Starr, 80, of Okmulgee, was born March 22, 1935. He passed away May 23, 2015. Graveside services were set for May 27 at the Harjo Family Cemetery.Services are under the direction of McClendon-Winters Funeral Home.

MNN FINAL SUBMISSION DATES

July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 —July 24

Aug. 15 — Aug. 7

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8

Oct. 1 — Sept. 24

Oct. 15 — Oct. 7

Nov. 1 — Oct. 23

Nov. 15 — Nov. 6

Dec. 1 — Nov. 20

Dec. 15 — Dec. 7

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR JULY 4

EUFULA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendants of Rev. William McCombs (1844-1929) is set for July 4 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Eufaula Community Center.

Please bring old photos, family stories and a pot-luck dish to share at the noon luncheon.

CMCA GATHERING SET FOR AUG. 1

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an annual gathering for Aug. 1 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia, Ave, Riverside CA, 92503.

For more information contact Jeanna Spirou at: 209-518-3554 or jeannars@yahoo.com.

TCIC YOUTH CAMP SET FOR AUG. 3-8

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set a weeklong youth ages 7-13 camp for Aug. 3-8. The camp will end with a parent day cook-out. Come join and make new friends.

Participants must live within TCIC boundaries and parents/guardians should be a TCIC member. If they are not, they may join.

The deadline to sign up is July 17 at 5 p.m. For more information call: 918-298-2464.

More details will be available in July.

MCN reschedules Festival Bass Classic

MCN T&R/Media Release

EUFULA, Okla. — The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Bass Classic has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 18 at Lake Eufaula.

“Due to flooding concerns, we’re rescheduling the bass tournament for the safety of our participants,” MCN Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe said.

Teams will not need to re-register for the new date. New participants can register up to 7 p.m. on July 18.

“We are excited and hope to have even more anglers for the new date,” Lowe said.

The one-day tournament features two-angler teams competing for the chance to win the \$5,000 grand prize. The cost to enter is \$200 per boat/team.

Each team will receive two Wohali fishing rods. Additional prizes will be awarded.

Individuals may register from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, July 17 at the South Point Pavilion in Eufaula Cove.

For additional rules and more information about the 2015 MCN Festival Bass Classic or other Festival events, visit www.creekfestival.com or call: 918-732-7992.

MCN Southern Regional office July schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for July.

July 1
Citizenship
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 3
MCN *closed*

July 7, 14, 21, 28
Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

July 29
Social Services along with Employment and Training
Closed

For more information call:
405-452-1100.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship
of the Person and Estate of:
S.C.S., III)
)
A Minor Child.)
)

Case No. GD-2015-12

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Malinda Evelyn Michelle Priester and Stuart Collin Synder, II

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2015-12, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: S.C.S., III, minor child. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 10th day of July, 2015, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 10 day of June, 2015.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Jessie Medley
(Deputy)

Approved:

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- Leading in the quality of Tribal newspapers
- Bimonthly publications free for all Enrolled Creek Citizens
- All-Indian news telecast airing each Saturday at 1:00pm on Tulsa's CW 12/19
- "Muskoke Radio" radio program on KOKL 1240 AM-Wednesdays at 10:00am
- Remote and independent video production
- Posters
- Business Cards
- Calendars
- Wedding Invitations
- Outdoor Banners
- Programs
- Custom Decals
- Graduation Announcements
- Brochures
- Custom Logos
- Photo Enhancements

Muskoke Language Preservation Program puzzle

ENHECKV — Looks like

CATE — Red

CATE OME — Pink

CVTO HOLOLOCCE — Diamond

FEKE — Heart

FVSKE TUCCENE — Triangle

HOLATTE —Blue

HVTKE — White

KOLASWV — Star

LANE — Yellow/Green

LVSTE — Black

OKLANE — Brown

POLOKSE — Round

PVRKO OME — Purple

SOPAK HVTKE — Gray

SVTAHE — Square

SVTAHE CVPKE — Rectangle

YVLAHV OME — Orange

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Your right to a hearing regarding Social Security

MCN SSAP/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — You can question the decision Social Security makes on your case. After SS decides whether or not you are eligible for benefits or that your benefits will stop or change, you will receive a letter explaining the decision. If you do not agree with the decision, you have the right to appeal.

There are four steps to an appeal: 1. Reconsideration 2. Hearing 3. Appeals Council Review and 4. Federal Court. The process must take place in the order listed with reconsideration being the first step in the appeals process and

After you request a hearing, your case will be sent to ALJ's office. At least 20 days before the scheduled hearing, you will receive a notice telling you the date, time and place of the hearing.

You have the right to be represented at your hearing. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program is pleased to announce that MCN legislation has been passed that allows our department to provide legal representation for the hearing at no cost to the client. The representative will review the evidence in your case file and submit any new evidence.

MCN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

918-549-2479

federal court being the last.

This article will give you information about the second step in the appeals process, the hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

Generally, you have 60 days after you receive the notice of decision to ask for any type of appeal. If you do not appeal on time, the ALJ may dismiss it. If your case is dismissed, you may not be eligible for the next step in the appeal process and you may also lose your right to any further review.

If you file an appeal after the 60-day deadline, you must explain the reason you are late and request an extension to file. The ALJ will make the determination to accept or deny your explanation for late filing.

At the hearing, your representative will be able to speak on your behalf and assist you in answering any questions the ALJ may have regarding your case. Your representative may question witnesses and submit evidence at the hearing.

After studying all of the evidence, the ALJ will issue a written decision. You and your representative will receive a copy of the decision or dismissal order.

SSAP is located at the MCN Tribal Complex in the Solomon McCombs building. Our telephone number is: 918-549-2479. We are open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

We are available to assist our Muscogee (Creek) citizens with any SS matter.

Campaign finance bill veto overridden during Council session

Laws regarding employees’, officials’ criminal history pass

Sterling CosperIMNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held June 20 at the MCN Mound building in Okmulgee.

The Council started their business by voting to override a veto on:

- NCA 15-081 Creating a new chapter under MCN Code Annotated, Title 37 titled, ‘The Campaign Finance Disclosure Act’ and to establish a public ethics commission. Reps. David Nichols, David Hill, Frank Coachman and Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment.

In short, the legislation states that the goal of the commission and act is to prevent conflicts of interest by ensuring that any potential financial gain made by public officials does not affect the decisions made through their position.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger’s veto message included concerns regarding potential conflicts between the new commission and the MCN Election Board stating that the board has the ability to serve the functions outlined for the commission and that the board said they were not consulted regarding the legislation, as he was told previously.

The commission consists of three members, one appointed by each branch of government. The message stated that the timetable outlined by the bill for the principal chief to make said appointment was a violation of the separation of powers since it was established for the executive office.

It states that the timetable for appointing commissioners and for them to outline their rules, conflicts with the upcoming election cycle.

It also states that many of the terms used in the legislation are not clearly defined and leave room for potential legal challenges.

Finally, it states that the bill violates U.S. federal law regarding ex post facto (after the fact) legislation by outlining rules regarding the submission of grand totals for contributions and expenditures from the last campaign.

The override passed 11-4 with Reps. Shirlene Ade, Pete Beaver, Joyce Deere and Johnnie Greene voting against it.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 15-107 Authorizing renovation to the Cromwell Indian Community building. Reps. Mitch Jack and Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The building was damaged due to a car crashing into it, which has compromised the structural integrity. It also states that the building floods any time there is heavy rain and it allows the exposure of natural heat and cold elements during meetings.

- NCA 15-121 Authorizing a \$2,000 special appropriation to eight Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The money will assist members of the Beggs Demons 10-years-old and under baseball team with traveling to participate in the Gulf Coast Ultimate World Series.

- NCA 15-144 Authorizing a \$519,664 special appropriation to the Cromwell Community. Jack and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The community needs financial assistance with renovating their building in order to: provide central heat and air, renovate the kitchen for possible use by the MCN Elderly Nutrition Program, make the bathroom and any additional ones compliant with the American with Disabilities Act, build a covered garage to safely house the community van and provide extra office and storage space.

- TR 15-084 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for the method of allocation for the Nation’s proportional share of funding for the Housing and Urban Development funds and the Indian Housing Block Grant. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Since the tribal towns are recognized as their own governments with their own citizens within the MCN, HUD has determined that with all parties’ permission, the best way to prevent an overlap in services is to split the funding through enrollment, where the tribal towns receive money based on double their enrollment and MCN receive the remaining portion.

- TR 15-094 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the City of Okemah, Okfuskee County for the construction and improvement of public roadways serving Indian communities. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The city agrees to maintain the roads once the Nation has constructed or improved them.

- TR 15-096 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and Indian Heath Services for the employment of Paul W. Hamra as commissioned personnel at the Koweta Indian Health Center. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Hamra will be employed as head of the dental department.

- TR 15-097 Approving a grant of easement for water line right-of-way to Okmulgee County Rural Water District #2 for the Twin Hills Convenience Store located in Okmulgee County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for the necessary work to take place on tribal land in order to provide the store with a water line.

- TR 15-098 Approving a grant of easement for water line right-of-way to Wagoner County Rural Water District #5 at the Koweta Food Distribution Center. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows an easement take place on tribal land in order provide the center with the necessary water line.

- TR 15-099 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for grant opportunities available through the Energy and Mineral Development Program administered through the Bureau of Indian

Affairs Division of Energy and Mineral Development and authorizing the principal chief to execute necessary grant documents. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The grants will help fund the Nation’s exploration of mineral assets located within the MCN landbase.

- TR 15-100 approving an assignment for a billboard lease located on trust lands in Tulsa and authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease assignment agreement. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN leases a billboard with Big Time Billboards LLC on trust land and wishes to renew the terms in order to retain the agreement.

- TR 15-101 Authorizing renovation to the Checotah Indian Community building. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The basement floods anytime there is heavy rain and renovations are needed to install a proper drainage system and waterproof the basement walls.

- TR 15-102 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a certification agreement between the MCN and The Green Building Certification Institute for the MCN Department of Health. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This certification agreement will allow U.S. Green Building Council oversight on the construction of MCNDH structures to make them Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design compliant. According to the USGBC website, LEED certified buildings save money and resources and have a positive impact on the health of occupants, while promoting renewable, clean energy.

- TR 15-103 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a healthcare administration internship policy agreement between MCN and Northeastern State University for MCNDH. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

NSU seeks to place interns with MCNDH to provide them with evidence-based experience for course credit.

- TR 15-104 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a volume licensing agreement between MCN and Microsoft for the MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Microsoft provides software that will assist MCNDH with efficiently and effectively managing its services.

- TR 15-105 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a repatriation agreement and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act plan of action with the National Park Service Gulf Island National Seashore for the reburial of human remains and associated funerary objects at the gulf island national seashore. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

NPS has agreed to transfer all responsibility for the remains and objects to MCN and the two must enter into the plan of action to do so. They will be reburied with oversight from a tribal historic preservation officer from the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

- TR 15-108 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an end user license agreement with Sophos Limited. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Sophos is a developer and vendor of computer security

software and hardware. GOAB is responsible for administering and managing MCN gaming facilities and wishes to purchase and utilize Sophos products and services.

- TR 15-109 Authorizing GOAB to execute marketing agreements with ATC Managed Sites LLC to market the use of a distributed antenna system and rooftop site to wireless service providers for River Spirit Casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The RSC expansion is expected to create an increase in data usage for wireless communication and cell phone service by the casino and its patrons and the antenna will accommodate this.

- TR 15-110 Supporting GOAB to conduct adequate research and prepare proposed amendments to Title 21, Chapter 4 of the MCN gaming code to further enhance gaming operations. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation states that current provisions in the code are outdated and hinder day-to-day business including the: limitation to one-year contracts, low threshold for executive management to approve expenditures, inability to make expedient business decisions and outdated provisions that don not recognize executive level staff with proper executive level authorities.

This will allow GOAB to review MCNCA and propose amendments to address this.

- TR 15-111 Authorizing the secretary of health to execute a license renewal application between MCN and Oklahoma State Department of Health for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH needs to renew licensure to provide home health care with OSDH through Oklahoma State University, which is the regulating body for this in the state.

- TR 15-112 Authorizing the formation of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation states Muscogee (Creek) youth are the leaders of the future and need experience to prepare them.

- TR 15-113 Authorizing the principal chief on behalf of MCNDH to execute a facility authorization request with OSDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH is eligible to receive certain vaccinations for free from the federal government to provide to Muscogee (Creek) children and an agreement with OSDH is necessary since it is the local government agency that distributes said vaccinations.

- TR 15-114 Authorizing GOAB to execute an agreement with Thompson Construction Inc. for refurbishment of the parking lot at Duck Creek Casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The parking lot needs renovations, which will continue the good aesthetics of the facility and thus generate more revenue for MCN.

- TR 15-115 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract between owner and contractor with SplashPadsUSA for the Claude A. Cox Ominplex splash pad. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely.

MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley said that the MCN Tribal Construction Depart-

ment has requested more time to review the proposed project.

- TR 15-116 Amending TR 15-074 (authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Nation and Okmulgee Creek County for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program). Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation changes language on a previous bill, which authorized TTP road improvements in Okmulgee County to read Creek County instead.

- NCA 15-092 Authorizing a \$28,744 appropriation to Glenpool Creek Indian Community for repairs and renovations. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

The legislation states that GCIC received a \$142,497 appropriation through NCA 13-260 for their 2014 operating budget and seek approval to utilize the remaining funds from this to bring the kitchen in their community center up to code and install industrial kitchen equipment that they have already purchased.

It also states that the bathrooms also need to be updated to fix plumbing issues and repair flooding that has already occurred.

- NCA 15-093 Amending NCA 13-260 (authorizing a special appropriation to GCIC for FY 2014 operating budget). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

The legislation states that GCIC has \$91,813 left from the FY 2014 budget appropriation and requests the use of this money for renovations to their center rather than returning it to the tribal treasury as stated in the original appropriation.

- NCA 15-100 Approving the 2016 Indian Housing Plan. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Eligibility for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act Indian Housing Block Grant funds, requires a tribally approved Indian housing plan be submitted to HUD for compliance approval at least 75 days before the end of the tribe’s fiscal year.

- NCA 15-118 Authorizing the expenditure of an additional \$200,000 for the construction of the Morris walking trail project. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Due to unforeseen problems and weather-related delays, the cost to complete the project has increased.

- NCA 15-119 Amending MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 3, titled, ‘Fire Protection.’ Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment edits the legislation for grammar, accuracy and clarity. It also changes the eligibility requirement for rural volunteer fire departments from making them unable to receive assistance within a three-year period after being funded by MCN, to allowing them to do so as long as the grant requirements are met.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

It also adds that in order to receive assistance, a line item budget with no less than three quotes must be submitted. It also changes and increases the funding accountability and reporting process after the grant is awarded.

- NCA 15-120 Authorizing a \$143,544 supplemental appropriation to the MCN Higher Education Doctorate Degree Program FY 2015 budget. Reps. Tiger and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The funding will be used to cover awards for the 2015 spring and summer semesters.
- NCA 15-122 Amending MCNCA, Title 19, Section 5-102, titled, ‘Candidate must be registered and take leave from employment with Muscogee (Creek) Nation.’ Reps. Tiger and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Tribal employees seeking to run for MCN political office must take leave from their positions during the campaign period. The legislation would allow employees to use their available paid annual, compensatory or personal leave during this time.
- NCA 15-123 Authorizing a \$2,000 special appropriation to Allen Free Will Baptist



Sterling Cospers/MNN

Church. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The church was destroyed by a fire May 5 and requested assistance in covering the cost to rebuild and furnish its interior since insurance will not.

- NCA 15-124 Appropriating \$71,100 to MCNDH to maintain and upgrade the emergency medical alert device system. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises conducted an assessment of the current system and determined it needs to be upgraded. The current one needs to be maintained and eventually replaced and a back-up system needs to be installed in case the current one fails.
- NCA 15-125 Amending MCNCA, Title 28, Subchapter 6-105 titled ‘The Master Plan.’ Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The MCN Cultural Center and Achieves Department is requesting the designated ‘cultural preservation area’ be renamed to honor full-blood Muscogee (Creek) master bow-maker Mike Berryhill.
- NCA 15-126 Authorizing a \$10,000 donation to the American Heart Association for the Go Red for Women Native Women Conference. Coach-

man sponsored the legislation, which passed 13-1 with Rep. Tiger voting against it.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among American Indians and the second leading cause of death among American Indian Women. MCNDH supports AHA and requests a donation for the conference.

- NCA 15-127 Authorizing the expenditure of \$39,940 in grant funds from the First Nations Development Institute SEEDS Block Grant awarded to the Department of Commerce to support Okfuskee Indian Community traditional food education and expansion of the community garden and food bank development project at the Okfuskee Indian Community Center. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The grant will support traditional food education for Muscogee (Creek) children and expand the community garden and food bank at the center.
- NCA 15-128 Establishing the MCN Youth Services revolving fund for various fundraising activities of MCN Youth Services. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The program would like to begin fundraising activities to support their goals, specifically the development of the program and needs the account in order to collect and expend these funds.
- NCA 15-129 Creating the Mvskoke Language Program revolving fund account for the

expenditure of all departmental income. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The fund is for the collection and expenditure of funds from the sale of CDs, CD ROMs, phrase books, DVDs, calendars and any other funds, including donations, accrued by the program.

- NCA 15-130 Authorizing a \$1,100 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rian Donaldson sought assistance to study in Madrid, Spain in order to solidify the training she has received in learning a second language.
- NCA 15-131 Creating an Employment and Training Program revolving fund account for the apprenticeship program. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The fund is for reinvesting income acquired through labor on various projects, back into the apprenticeship program in order to provide participants with wages and supplies.
- NCA 15-132 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jolie Fish requested assistance to travel and compete in tourna-

ments with her softball team, which is nationally ranked #32.

- NCA 15-133 Authorizing a \$4,000 donation to the Oklahoma Wild Bunch Youth Rodeo Association. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The non-profit association has approximately 20 Muscogee (Creek) members and requested assistance to purchase five saddles to award to first place winners at the OWBYRA Finals where they will award a total of 25 saddles.
- NCA 15-134 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizens Audrey Roberts and Hulleah Winkle sought financial assistance to compete in the World Series with the Henryetta Heat 12-years-old and under fast pitch softball team.
- NCA 15-135 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizens Jasmyne Jack and Kaden Lewis requested financial assistance with traveling to attend the first ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering sponsored the by the U.S. Department of Justice Today’s Native Leaders program and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- NCA 15-136 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a

Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Adam Hill was selected to play in the Native All Star Football Classic and requested financial assistance to do so.

- NCA 15-137 Authorizing the expenditure of \$292,795 to re-roof the Solomon McCombs building. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The building is one of the oldest on the MCN Tribal Complex and its roof needs repairs. The GSA Department has funds available to cover the cost and needs approval to expend them.
- NCA 15-138 Amending Title 37, Chapter 3 and establishing a new Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 11 titled, ‘Hiring and Employment Prohibition.’ Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The legislation is aimed at prohibiting the hiring or employment of people who have committed felony crimes against MCN and MCN entities.
- NCA 15-139 Amending Article V, Section 1(F) and Article VI, Section 2(C) of the MCN Constitution to add language pertaining to felony criminal convictions against MCN. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The legislation is aimed to

prohibit anyone who has been convicted of a felony against MCN to be eligible for the Office of Principal Chief or Second Chief or any appointive office established by the MCN Constitution.

With final MCN government approval, this proposal will be placed on the Sept. 19 primary ballot to be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote from eligible Muscogee (Creek) citizens who vote in the election.

- NCA 15-140 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Transit Department FY 2015 budget. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The department wishes to make this modification in order to reallocate certain funds for other expenses.
- NCA 15-141 Authorizing a \$1,530,429 appropriation for the MCN Department of Education and Training Literacy Program for FY 2016. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-4 with Beaver, Deere, Jennings and Ade voting against it.
- The department needs additional funding to continue the community-wide reading program through myON Reader, an online digital library.
- NCA 15-142 Authorizing a \$99,999 appropriation to fund the costs associated with constructing a Claude A. Cox Omniplex splash pad. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The splash pad will be used to compliment other activities available for families at the omniplex. A splash pad is a recreation area that sprays water up through nozzles in the ground.
- NCA 15-143 Authorizing a \$899,645 supplemental appropriation for the Tribal Construction Services Department. Reps. Tiger and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The department has several projects in the works and funding for more staff and equipment is necessary to oversee them as required by law.
- NCA 15-145 Authorizing a \$1,500 special appropriation to six Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizens Tessa Ethelbah, Athena Harrison, Elisiah Harrison, Robert Harrison, Frances Herrod and Zula Herrod requested financial assistance to attend Indian Falls Creek Church Camp through Tookparfka Indian Baptist Church.
- NCA 15-146 Appropriating \$218,177.72 to Grant Thornton LLP to facilitate the forensic audit. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month 13-1 with Coachman voting against the motion.
- NCA 15-147 Appropriating \$187,491 to continue and expand the Junior Botball Challenge Program to be administered by the Department of Education and Training. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-2 with Jennings and Ade voting against it.
- According to their website, the Junior Botball Challenge is a sustainable program that provides reusable equipment, software, standards-aligned curriculum and professional development opportunities to teach elementary students code writing and cover engineering design standards.
- The first competition was a success and the legislation is aimed at continuing and ex-

panding it.

- NCA 15-148 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Reps. Hufft and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizens Andrea and Allizabeth Brummet requested financial assistance to attend a cross-cultural, family retreat mission trip in Lima, Peru.
- NCA 15-149 Authorizing a \$4,010 special appropriation to Randall Indian Baptist Church. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Twenty-two Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are members of the church wish to attend Indian Falls Creek Church Camp and request financial assistance to do so.
- NCA 15-150 Authorizing a \$1,000 special appropriation to four Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizens Malorie Burgess, Brianna Harris, Abigail Harris and Tatiyona Harris requested financial assistance to travel and compete in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics National Championship with the AAU 3-D Elite track team.
- NCA 15-151 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kalli Brackney requested financial assistance to travel and play in the USSSA World Series fast pitch softball tournament with the Ultimate 05, 10-years-old and under team.
- NCA 15-152 Appropriating \$54,000 to the Mound Building oversight committee for the maintenance and upkeep of the Mound Building. Yahola and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The committee requested funding for a mower to service the grounds surrounding the building and to: repair the floor by the public restrooms, install the annual Christmas lights display and replace the sound system in the auditorium.
- Nichols was excused.
- The July quarterly session is scheduled July 25.
- Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.
- The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the 2010 MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN District Court website at: www.muscogeeecreektribalcourt.org, both of which may have been amended.
- The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.
- It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.
- For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.





Introducing the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation royalty



Pageant winner looks to inspire others

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Madeline Gouge was crowned 2015-2016 Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation during the 2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant June 6 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee. She was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship among other prizes.

Gouge knew she wanted to compete for the title but the attention she was getting from others helped influence her decision.

Gouge spoke about an experience that changed her perspective.

“Someone messaged me and said that their daughter wished they were like me,” Gouge said. “They’re already looking up to me so I did it for the younger generations.”

Gouge competed against four others for the title and accomplished her vision of becoming Jr. Miss MCN.

“It was overwhelming, but I felt very humbled to be picked and I was ready to step forward and take the title,” Gouge said.

Gouge’s platform focuses on inspiring people.

“I could go to schools and tell them

what inspired me and that every day that when you get up should have an inspiration. Be inspired to do something,” Gouge said. “My inspiration is to tell people that there’s always a reason, good or bad... there’s always something that keeps you going.”

Gouge said she looks to her mother for guidance and direction.

“She’s always been there for me. She’s so merciful and loving and she always has open arms whenever I need her the most,” Gouge said.

Gouge said she is prepared for what the next year has to bring and what she hopes to accomplish during her reign.

“To embrace everything, all the learning experiences,” Gouge said.

After high school, Gouge hopes to play softball at the colligate level and find a school where she can pursue her education to become a pharmacist or physical therapist. She is working for the MCN Scholarship Foundation through the summer youth program.

Gouge is a member of the Beaver Clan, Tulsa Canadian Tribal Town, Crosstown Church and is the daughter of Geebon and Jenna Gouge from Henryetta.

Gouge is the granddaughter of Karen and Joe Robertson, Johnny and Mary Boyce and the late Thompson and Lutie Gouge.



New tribal princess aims to represent Nation

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Shannon Barnett was crowned 2015-2016 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation during the 2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant June 6 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee. She was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship among other prizes.

Barnett is from Broken Arrow and recently graduated from the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee with an Associate of Science in tribal services and a certificate in Mvskoke language studies.

When Barnett was presented with the opportunity to serve as tribal royalty, she took it.

“I just wanted the chance to get to represent for and be our goodwill ambassador,” Barnett said.

Her platform is preserving Muscogee (Creek) culture and education.

“I definitely want to get the word out and visit schools because I want to encourage the youth how important it is to preserve our culture,” Barnett said. “Then also to encourage them to come to CMN and know that higher education is possible for them.”

Barnett is leading by example and

plans to study elementary education at the Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow campus.

“I want to teach elementary education, preferably in an Indian education department but then I would also like to work with the tribe in the language department and teach the Mvskoke language,” said Barnett.

Barnett spoke about her teacher from CMN, Norma Marshall who has had an influence on her life.

“She’s just really passionate and cares about the Mvskoke language and culture and you can tell she really cares about her students,” Barnett said.

Barnett is working with Marshall during her MCN College Work Experience Program internship.

“I feel like I can go to her for anything; for help or advice,” she said.

Barnett looks forward to reigning as Miss MCN.

“I hope to just get to meet as much people as I can,” Barnett said. “I’m real excited to travel and meet a lot of our citizens and just for some of the opportunities presented to me and Jr. Miss.”

In her spare time she enjoys playing fastpitch softball.

Barnett is a member of the Bird Clan, Kialegee Tribal Town, Solid Rock Baptist Church and is the daughter of Kay and Daniel Barnett from Broken Arrow.